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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DHA-02 /079 W
---------- 088030
R 200430Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6202
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, HU, SW, UR, SP, CI
SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER COMPARES DICTATORSHIPS

REF: BUDAPEST 3590

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON REPLIED IN PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 18 TO CRITICISM OF HIS SIGNING A COMMUNIQUE IN BUDAPEST WITH HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA NOVEMBER 2 IN WHICH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WAS CONDEMNED FOR ITS "SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. (REFTEL). MOD-ERATE (CONSERVAPIVE) PARTY M.P. ANDERS WIJKMAN HAD PRESENTED AN INTERPELLATION IN PARLIAMENT, QUESTIONING THE PROPRIETY OF "CONDEMNING THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN A DICTATORSHIP TOGETHER WITH A LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF
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ANOTHER DICTATORSHIP." DESCRIBING THE ACT AS AN EXAMPLE

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OF "ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED HYPROCRISY", WIJKMAN ASSERTED
THAT WHILE THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH CRITICIZING CHILE,
"THE COMPANY IN WHICH IT WAS MADE WAS WRONG."

2. RESPONDING TO WIJKMAN, ANDERSSON CLAIMED THAT THE
VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION IN CHILE ARE "UNIQUE." NOTING THAT
SWEDEN HAD SUPPORTED A U.N. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE
CHILEAN REGIME, ANDERSSON SAIDMTHAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE
TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF
COUNTRIES (SUCH AS HUNGARY) WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT SOCIAL
SYSTEMS FROM THAT OF SWEDEN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID
SWEDEN HAD PROTESTED THE INVASION OF HUNGARY IN 1956,
"BUT TODAY IT IS A QUESTION OF CHILE, AND IF ONE WANTS
TO FIGHT OPPRESSION THERE, ONE MUST EXPLOIT THE
POSSIBILITIES WHICH EXIST NOW." ANDERSSON ASSERTED THAT
HE WAS NOT DEFENDING ANY DICTATORSHIP AND ADDED THAT
SIGNING A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH HUNGARY DID NOT
RPT NOT MEAN THAT HE ACCEPTED THAT HUNGARIAN SOCIAL SYSTEM.

3. WIJKMAN COUNTERED THAT THERE IS AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN U.N. RESOLUTIONS AND BILATERAL STATEMENTS, AND
REPEATED AGAIN THAT HIS MAIN OBJECTION TO THE CONDEMNATION
OF CHILE WAS THE "COMPANY IN WHICH IT WAS MADE." THE
FOREIGN MINISTER, HE CHARGED, "IS TRYING TO GRADE DICTATOR-
SHIPS." SUCH ACTIONS AS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WIJKMAN
SAID, "CAN ONLY RESULT IN NEGATIVELY INFLUENCING RESPECT
FOR OUR PROTESTS AGAINST OPPRESSION AND THE LACK OF FREE-
DOM," AND CONCLUDED, "WE CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP THAT
KIND OF COMPANY."

4. ANDERSSON ALSO DISCUSSED CHILE, AND CONDITIONS IN
SPAIN AND THE SOVIET UNION, (IN CONNECTION WITHMAMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL'S REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE
USSR) IN AN INTERVIEW WHICH APPEARED ON SWEDISH TELEVISION
THE SAME DAY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ATTEMPTED TO DRAW A
DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SOVIET DICTATORSHIP ON THE ONE
HAND AND THE SPANISH AND CHILEAN DICTATORSHIPS ON THE
OTHER. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
DOES NOT EXIST IN THE SOVIET UNION, ANDERSSON CLAIMED
THAT UNLIKE THE CHILEAN AND SPANISH REGIMES, THERE IS NO
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EVIDENCE OF TORTURE OF PRISONERS OR POLITICAL MURDERS IN THE
USSR. CHILE AND SPAIN, HE CONTINUED, ARE TYRANNICAL REGIMES
BECAUSE TORTURE AND POLITICAL MURDERS ARE CARRIED OUT,
AND HE CITED THE RECENT EXECUTION OF SPANISH TERRORISTS
AFTER A MILITARY TRIAL AS A CASE IN POINT.

5. PRESSED BY THE INTERVIEWER TO COMMENT ON THE SOVIET
SITUATION, ANDERSSON CLAIMED THAT CONDITIONS HAD IMPROVED

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THERE CONSIDERABLY SINCE STALIN'S TIME, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS STILL A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH THE SWEDISH CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOVIETS CAUSE PEOPLE TO BREAK DOWN IN PRISONS AND MENTAL INSTITUTIONS, AND COMMENTED: "NATURALLY, THIS IS A SYSTEM WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT AND WHICH WE DISAPPROVE."

6. COMMENT: IN MAKING AN ARBITRARY DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHTWING DICTATORSHIPS, ANDERSSON APPEARS TO BE INDULGING IN SELECTIVE MORALITY CHARACTERISTIC NOT ONLY OF SWEDEN BUT OF NUMEROUS OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL, AS INDICATED BY RECENT VOTING PATTERNS IN THE UNGA. THE BASIC PREMISE OF THIS APPROACH IS THAT RIGHTWING DICTATOR-SHIPS ARE INTRINSICALLY EVEL, WHEREAS THE LEFTWING KIND, WHILE ADMITTEDLY IMPERFECT, ARE AT LEAST MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. IGNORED IS THE FACT THAT THE EXTREME EFFECTIVENESS OF LEFTWING MONOLITHIC SOCIETIES IN CONTROLLING THEIR POPULATIONS DRASTICALLY REDUCES THE KIND OF DISSENT TO WHICH OUTSIDERS CAN POINT, WHEREAS THE VERY IMPERFECTION OF CONTROL OF MANY OF THE RIGHTWING AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OFTEN PROVIDES OUTLETS FOR CRITICISM. FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON'S IMPLICATION THAT SOMEHOW THE SPANISH AND CHILEAN REGIMES ARE MORE EVIL THAN ANY OF THE VAST NUMBER OF LEFTIST TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENTS, IS CONTINUING INDICATION THAT THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, DESPITE SOME EFFORT AT STRIKING MORE OF A BALANCE IN ITS PRONOUNCEMENTS, (I.E., PALME'S CRITICISM LAST SPRING OF THE CZECH REGIME), CONTINUES TO APPLY A DOUBLE STANDARD IN ITS EVALUATION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
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